

From: Phil Smith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 1:04pm
Subject: States may have rights and their interests, but at what expense to the national interest?

In my opinion, a settlement should be reached between Microsoft and the federal government. Those states that remain opposed to the points tentatively agreed upon are actively sabotaging the situation at hand. It would seem that these states are not in fact interested in looking out for their residents, but perhaps more for their corporate constituents. It is one thing to sarcastically quip that a corporation can "purchase" a senator or a congressman, but the very notion of "owning" a state is sickening to the very core.

The behavior of these states has not been explained clearly to those members of society that would be most directly affected by these states course of action. If they indeed have a legitimate grudge with Microsoft, why is it not spelled out directly, for the public to know and understand? I would like to see the federal government impress upon these state prosecutors that their intentions will cause far more harm than good, and that they should concede to the better solution of settling this case with Microsoft.

-- Phil Smith